

## **Equity Statement for SR22-11**On Submission of Letter to D.C. Education Research Collaborative

Improving early reading is a critical issue for all students and disproportionately important for students who are at-risk and who have disabilities, whose scores are substantially lower than their peers. Thanks to broad advocacy, including from SBOE members, the DC Council adopted the Preventing Early Reading Difficulties and Dyslexia bill, aimed especially at greatly strengthening professional development and early screening. It has the potential to substantially improve reading instruction, but as we know, educational programs—including these—can be implemented well, not so well, or anywhere in between. Our children will benefit most when we evaluate implementation and work to continually improve it. Providing this kind of research can and should be an important focus of the DC Education Research Collaborative. For these reasons, we

We also know that COVID took a big toll on student achievement in our schools, again, with a disproportionately negative effect on at-risk students. Our schools will be investing in a variety of recovery and acceleration efforts. There is much to learn from these efforts that can be used to support our most at-risk students now and in the future. For this reason, we ask that the Collaborative also make the implementation and effectiveness of these programs a priority.

recommend that researching the implementation of this be a high priority of the Collaborative.



